

Beaglehole—Ethnology of Pukapuka

342 on the owner's generosity, but no man who expects to call on friends again
476 can afford to be stingy in his food division. The amount of food in each
931 share is slightly increased for the more laborious types of roof thatching.
The same method of contracting is used today in building the slit walls
for a modern house. The space between the uprights is divided into sections
(here called *malova*), and one food share is set aside for those who complete
a section (*puipui no malova*). The food division at which the shares are
handed out to the workers is termed *apaisenga*. That this division may be
made immediately the work is completed, the more farsighted arrange for it
ahead of time by placing a tapu on their tala and nuts, and by fattening
pigs. Others, not so far-seeing, wait until the work is completed before be-
ginning to gather food, and the workers may have to wait patiently for some
time before the payment is made. Informants seemed to think that a two-
year wait would be the limit. If the owner showed no signs by this time
of preparing his food division, it would be legitimate for the workers to
make pointed comments about his stinginess. In any case, no man who was
at all proud of his reputation in the community could afford to wait as long
as two years.

342 There is no specialization in Pukapukan house building, and not the
33 slightest suggestion of any guild organization. It is for this reason, per-
haps, that an average-sized dwelling house takes from seven months to a year
to build. The actual labor involved is not great, but the owners must fre-
quently put aside work on the new house in order to engage in other ac-
tivities. Delay is also caused by the necessity of laying in reserve food sup-
plies to pay the workers in the next stage of construction. It is possible that
412 the time taken to build a house today with iron tools (as also a canoe), is
342 conditioned by the carry-over of temporal patterns from an earlier time
654 when work was done with shell adzes and most of necessity have proceeded
961 slowly. Also a work in hand gives a man a feeling that his time is valuable,
and increases his importance in the community as one who has undertaken
a work of magnitude and who is theoretically busy at this work when others
may be idle.

342 There is no record in Pukapuka of any rites, tapus, chastities, prayers to
the gods, or other ceremonies connected with house building. The comple-
tion of a new god house was marked by a feast, but there was no consecra-
tion of the house before it was used.

CANOE BUILDING

322 There is no name for the expert canoe builder other than the general
463 descriptive terms, *tegepa mooua* or *tegepa teu uia*, applied to any
expert craftsman. Expertness in canoe building is associated with families
of canoe builders by whom most of the canoes on the island are made.